

# News

from the Illinois Commerce Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ICC begins process to deregulate state's energy market**

The Illinois Commerce Commission is seeking input from all current and potential energy stakeholders as the state moves toward a deregulated electricity environment in 2007.

At the initial "Post-2006 Initiative" meeting today in Chicago, the ICC outlined its goals and expectations for the transition and announced the schedule for future symposiums, meetings and workshops designed to identify issues surrounding the change in the state's energy industry. Attendees included electric utilities, consumer advocates, independent power producers, energy marketers and others.

Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz is spearheading the ICC's efforts.

"We are absolutely committed to providing a forum and process for an open exchange of ideas, positions and hopefully solutions to implementation of the Customer Choice legislation of 1997," said Commissioner Erin O'Connell-Diaz. "Restructuring Illinois' energy market marks the single biggest milestone in the history of our state's utility landscape and promises to be the biggest regulatory challenge facing this Commission in the next few years."

The Commission's Bureau of Public Utilities has published a "white paper" that identifies preliminary issues and will serve as the blueprint for the group's initial effort. Both this document and related information are available on the ICC's website, [www.icc.state.il.us](http://www.icc.state.il.us).

The ICC also announced it will host a symposium in conjunction with the Illinois Energy Association and the Citizens Utility Board on April 29 at Loyola University-Water Tower Campus in Chicago. This symposium will feature prominent, national speakers and panel members to help facilitate and explore solutions to market structure challenges.

Workshops and other meetings will be held throughout the summer months, with a final report expected sometime this fall.

"Other states are closely watching Illinois to see what happens. We want to be a leader, but most importantly, we want to get it right for Illinois," O'Connell-Diaz added.

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